

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

CHOIROPOTAMUS VERSUS KOIROPOTAMUS.

In a recent note¹ Mr. Hollister has rightly shown that these names, both published in Gray's "List" of 1843, are valid nomenclaturally and the only question is as to which of them should be granted precedence.

Koiropotamus is given in the introductory systematic list (p. xxvii) and in the index, p. 207; Choiropotamus in the body of the work, p. 185.

Mr. Hollister says that "it seems clear that Choiropotamus is a *lapsus* for Koiropotamus * * * since it was taken direct from the specific name *koïropotamus* of Desmoulins," but he has no proof of this, and I should rather be disposed to say that finding Koiropotamus—classically incorrect—in existence, Gray deliberately corrected it by the alteration of K into Ch.

That he then later used Koiropotamus in the two indices, systematic and alphabetical,—obviously both prepared and printed later than p. 185,—does not affect the fact that in the first instance he used the proper classical transliteration. Why he altered the name does not appear, but as he did not definitely state that the change was the correction of a misprint or *lapsus calami* I should not admit it as such, and would now maintain that Choiropotamus is the form we ought to use.

So far as I am aware, no general ruling has been given as to the relative priority of introduction and body of work, but certainly in this case it is quite clear that Choiropotamus must have been printed first, or else the page number could not have been inserted in the introduction where Koiropotamus occurs.

Perhaps an official ruling should be asked for, but pending such I should propose to use Choiropotamus as the tenable name of the River Hogs.

—Oldfield Thomas.

A NEW NAME FOR THE WEST AFRICAN PYGMY SQUIRREL.

The name *Myosciurus minutus*, now in use for the West African pygmy squirrel, is preoccupied by *Sciurus minutus* Lartet, Notice sur la Colline de Sansan, suivie d'une Récapitulation des diverses Espèces d'Animaux Vertébrés Fossiles, etc., p. 20, 1851. The African species (*Sciurus minutus* Du Chaillu, Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 7, p. 366, 1861) requires a new name and may be known as *Myosciurus minutulus*.

—N. Hollister.

¹Supra, p. 77.